AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original) A computerized method for billing for web services comprising the steps of:

-       creating a descriptor file designating at least one pre-defined element;

-       configuring a handler to monitor a web service network communication, between a service requestor and a service provider, for said predefined element(s) in said descriptor file;

-       configuring said handler to send said pre-defined element(s) to a set of programmed instructions to create an event record;

-       electronically transmitting said event record to a billing system for further processing.

2.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether <u>an event corresponding to</u> said event <u>record</u> requires authorization.

3.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said programmed instructions are configured to determine whether <u>an event corresponding to</u> said event <u>record</u> requires rating.

4.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of transforming said pre-defined element(s) according to a set of instructions in said descriptor file before transmitting said <u>event</u> record to <s>a</s> <u>the</u> billing system.

5.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a request <u>for a web service</u> and a response <u>to</u> <u>said request</u> wherein said request comprises a start time and said response comprises an end time and further comprising the steps of:

-       creating a first event record comprising said start time;

-       sending said first event record to said billing system;

-       queuing said first event record in said billing system;

-       creating a second event record comprising said end time;

-       sending said second event record to said billing system;

-       matching said first event record with said second event record;

-    calculating a charge for said web service based on said start time and said end time;

-    returning said charge to said service provider.

6.   (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said billing system comprises programmed billing instructions coded to determine whether a web service transaction may be performed.

7.   (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 6 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine if said service requestor is permitted to access said web service transaction.

8.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said billing system ~~may return~~ returns a response to said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.

9.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to determine whether said service requestor is solvent enough to purchase said web service transaction .

10.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to a set of application code associated with said web service provider indicating whether said web service transaction should proceed.

11.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 9 wherein said programmed billing instructions are configured to return a response to said web service provider indicating a quantity for said web service transaction to proceed.

12.   (Original) A computerized method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said web service network communication comprises a SOAP message stream.

13.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein said SOAP message stream ~~may comprise~~ comprises a set of data including quality of service information, authorization key fields, version numbers, encrypted account information, and start/stop time.

14.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 12 wherein ~~a~~ said billing system ~~may use~~ uses said at least one pre-defined element in said SOAP message stream to support at least one pre-defined billing plan.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computerized method as claimed in claim 14 wherein said pre-defined billing plans ~~may be~~ is chosen from a list consisting of subscriptions, bundled plans, time-based usage plans, re-occurring charges, one-time charges, discount plans based on usage, discount plans based on time-of-day, discount plans based on customer

loyalty, discount plans based on family/organization relationships, tired plans, location dependent pricing, and combinations thereof.

16.   (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer executable instructions for performing a method comprising

-    receiving a descriptor file designating at least one pre-defined element;

-    utilizing said descriptor file to monitor a web service network communication for said pre-defined element(s);

-    copying said-predefined element(s) from said network communication into a record;

-    electronically sending said record to a billing system for further processing.

17.   (Currently Amended) A system for billing for web services comprising:

-    a descriptor file;

-    a handler;

-    a record; and

-    a billing system

wherein

-    said descriptor file designates at least one pre-defined elements;

-    said handler is configured to monitor a web service network communication, between a service requestor and a service provider, and to intercept said communication if said communication corresponds to for said at least one pre-defined element in said descriptor file;

-    said handler is further configured to copy said pre-defined elements from said network communication into a record;

-    said handler is further configured to electronically transmit said record to a billing system for further processing.

18.   (New) The system of claim 17 wherein said billing system is embedded within a web service server; wherein said further processing comprises determining whether said service requestor is solvent enough to purchase a web service corresponding to said web service network communication; and wherein said web service network communication comprises a SOAP message stream.